Docket No. AUS920030809US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTIMIZING PARKING SITUATIONS

A parking management system is provided for optimizing parking situations based on preferences of individual drivers. A surveyor collects parking information, which identifies whether or not parking spaces are occupied by a vehicle. Parking information may be collected by sensors located near or within the parking spaces themselves. The parking information is stored in a parking data structure, such as a database, which also stores properties for the spaces. A profile data structure, such as a database, contains profiles for users of the parking structure. The parking management system identifies a user and retrieves the profile of the user from the profile data structure. The parking management system then searches the parking data structure for available spots and selects a spot or set of spots that most closely match the user's preferences. The parking management system then presents the spot of set of spots to the driver.